update

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UNDP to extend its HIV/AIDS programme in Asia and the Pacific

UNDP will expand its New Delhi-based regional project on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific over the next four years. In the past, the programme has supported development of national strategies which emphasize prevention of HIV infection and humane treatment of those who are infected.

The Asia and Pacific region is increasingly affected by the epidemic and it is likely that, as in Africa, the impact will have major social and economic consequences. With a total of 500,000 AIDS cases expected in Thailand by the year 2000, for example, the cost of the epidemic in that country is projected to be in the range of $9-$20 billion.

The next phase of UNDP's HIV/AIDS programme in Asia is still under discussion, but will most likely focus on such areas as: consciousness-raising among decision-makers, support to community-based initiatives, AIDS prevention, and working to change the legal climate which supports rather than discriminates against people living with HIV.

The UNDP programme to battle the HIV/AIDS epidemic was one of the main topics addressed by the 23 UNDP Resident Representatives in the Asia and Pacific region, who met in New Delhi, India earlier this month. Their meeting coincided with the Second International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, also held in New Delhi.

Elizabeth Reid, Director of UNDP's HIV and Development office, gave the Resident Representatives an overview of the epidemic and its implications for the Asia region. Michael Merson, Director of the World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS, underscored the need for timely action over the next few years, because this period will be critical in shaping what happens over the next two to three decades.

New credit facility will boost small businesses in Uganda

Inadequate financial services constrain productivity and expansion of potentially dynamic small businesses in the West Nile region of Uganda. To help develop local economic ventures, UNDP's Capital Development Fund will provide $2.6 million for savings and credit services to Ugandans engaged in small-scale economic activities in this region.

CARE International will be sub-contracted to implement the project. CARE will, in turn, sub-contract CERUDET, a local credit institution, to jointly develop a financially viable banking operation to provide financial services to the poor in the West Nile region.

There will be two main target groups: small-scale entrepreneurs whose activities will include trade and services industries, and farmers who need credit for labour and tools. The long-term aim of the five-year project will be to increase the income of 5,000 people in this region.

Women will receive 35 per cent of the loans provided. The credit plan will offer 750 loans of under $500 to various local groups, 10 loans of $25,000 to $35,000 to numerous associations, and 750 loans to individuals in the amounts of $500-$2,000. Each borrower will be required to place five per cent of the loan amount in an interest earning savings account held by CERUDET. This will serve as a partial guarantee of the loan. A branch office of CERUDET will be established in the heart of the region, and its staff and managers will be trained to lend effectively and efficiently to the rural and urban poor.

In this Issue:

Projects approved: **Vocational training for Cambodia • Investment for Cambodia's transport sector • Improved natural resource management for Cambodia • Sustained water and electricity for Phnom Penh • Developing the Republic of Congo's private sector • Continued support to marginal farmers in Indonesia • Pakistan improves teacher training • Saudi Arabia boosts economic and social planning • Thailand makes education reforms • New civil aviation centre for Latin America • Managing ocean resources**

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Information network on trade and investment opportunities expands its reach

UNDP's Technological Information Pilot System (TIPS) now has 6,000 subscribers and contains 50,000 entries on technology and trade information, making it one of the biggest data bases in the world on trade and technology opportunities in the developing world. TIPS is an information network which disseminates commercial data, business and investment opportunities, the latest prices and availability of certain equipment, and offers for joint collaboration. TIPS also carries information on consultancy services, featuring consultancy contracts and equipment procurement tenders from governments and the United Nations system.

One aim of the network is to enhance the flow of trade and investments among developing countries. TIPS can present alternatives for companies in developing countries before they decide, for example, to buy equipment from industrialized countries. They can first compare prices and prospects.

Approximately 150 staff worldwide linked by a 24-hour telecommunications system, collect and disseminate TIPS information daily. Direct collection, printing and dissemination of the information bulletins are carried out by national bureaux in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. A small international operations centre is based in Rome, with regional offices in Manila for Asia and Caracas for Latin America.

Subscription prices may vary. In the Philippines, for example, the daily TIPS bulletin costs $100 a year for a total of 240 packages with three bulletins per package, or 720 pages of business information. Each one-page bulletin contains an average of 300-800 words.

The bulletins cover such topics as agro-industries, business opportunities, biotechnology, electronics, energy, fisheries, food processing, machinery, pharmaceuticals and textiles. Most are abstracts, offers and requests for trade and technology, announcements of research and development breakthroughs, trends, reports, events, technology and trade policies and investment opportunities.

To become a TIPS subscriber, contact: TIPS, Via Panisperna 203, Rome, Italy 00184, FAX: 39 6 482 8838, Telephone: 396 482 6967.

UNDP to co-sponsor an international sustainable agriculture conference

UNDP will be one of the sponsors of an international sustainable agriculture conference to be held next year in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The expected 1,000 participants in the event — "Sustaining the Earth Summit — Planting a New Vision of Sustainable Agriculture" — will discuss ways to make sustainable agriculture and rural development a worldwide reality through the implementation of Agenda 21, the global guidelines for environmental action which were drawn up at UNCED. The international forum is scheduled for 22-26 June, 1993.

Those attending will include sustainable agriculture practitioners, development officials, business leaders, farm workers, indigenous people, researchers, educators, policy makers, spiritual leaders, philanthropists, NGO representatives and media from around the world.

For further information, or to be a sponsor, contact: The International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, Newman Center at the University of Minnesota, 1701 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN. 55414, USA. Tel: (612) 331-1099; Fax: (612) 379-1527.

Projects approved

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Cambodia — This project will strengthen existing national and provincial vocational training facilities. The long-term aim will be to equip returning refugees with income-generating skills. These skills will be needed for the rehabilitation of the local and national economy. Nearly 3,000 people will receive training in vocational skills through short-term courses. Senior officials will be trained in planning community training efforts. Teaching aids, manuals and courses will be developed for improving existing programmes.

UNDP contribution: $3,683,000. Funds will provide experts in vocational training and curriculum development. They will also supply United Nations Volunteers who specialize in electronics and television repair, and computer operation and maintenance. Executed by the International Labour Organisation and implemented by the Ministry of Education. (CMB/92/020)

Cambodia — Cambodia's reconstruction and socio-economic development will depend to a great extent on the rehabilitation and improvement of the transport sector. UNDP will facilitate the planning, coordination and funding of technical and capital assistance in this area. Existing key transport facilities will be assessed, and capital investment and technical assistance projects will be identified for future funding by the donor community. Options for sectoral reforms and training requirements in the transportation sector will be prepared. In addition, two donor coordinating meetings will be organized.

UNDP contribution: $744,400. Asian Development Bank (AsDB) funding: $600,000. Funds will be used for a team of

consultants including a transport economist, a highway engineer, a mechanical engineer, a bridge engineer, a port engineer and specialists in railways and the environment. Executed by the AsDB and implemented by the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. (CMB/91/008)

Cambodia — Technical advisory services will be provided to review the environmental implications of all foreign investment programmes in order to slow down the current rate of natural resource depletion in Cambodia. Training will be provided to enable key decision-makers to manage the country's development in a sustainable manner. In addition, a data base on natural resources will be established, along with a revised set of environment legislation policies. Technical training will be offered in the preparation of environmental impact assessments. Finally, a portfolio of community-oriented projects will be identified for donor funding in the areas of reforestation, erosion control and maintenance of water management structures.

UNDP contribution: $918,810. Third-party cost sharing: $500,000. Funds will be used for training, equipment, an environmental lawyer, an economist, an environmental planner and an environmental education specialist. The lead government authority is the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. The Executing agency is the UNDP Office for Project Services, and the implementing agent is the Technical Advisory Committee on the Management and Sustainable Exploitation of Natural Resources. (CMB/92/003)

Cambodia — This project will help ensure the efficient and effective provision of water to Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. Water production plants and distribution systems in both cities will be rehabilitated. Training will be provided to engineers in the operation, maintenance and monitoring of water utilities. The institutional and regulatory systems for the water sector will be restructured.

UNDP contribution: $4,110,900. Funds will provide United Nations Volunteers, and advisors in water supply management, finance and accounting. In addition, fellowships, study tours and language training will be offered. Executed by the World Bank and implemented by the Supreme National Council for Cambodia. (CMB/91/007)

Cambodia — UNDP will provide support to enhance the management, operation, maintenance, accounting, billing and collection systems of power utilities in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. Training will be provided to engineers and managers.

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UNDP contribution: $3,689,500. Funds will provide an advisor for power supply management, a power system planner, an energy planner and a revenue and collection adviser. In addition, fellowships, study tours and in-service language training will be provided. Executed by the World Bank and implemented by the Supreme National Council for Cambodia. (CMB/92/016)

Congo — The private sector in the Republic of Congo is practically non-existent. Legislative and administrative laws and regulations are a hindrance to private initiatives. The government has requested UNDP to assist in taking immediate measures to develop the private sector to its full potential.

A series of studies will be done, leading to recommendations for reforms in the fields of labour, banking, investments, and import and export regulations. Public awareness activities will promote the development of the private sector and national businesses.

UNDP contribution: $530,000. Funds will provide consultant services in legal reform, labour and manpower regulations, and human resources and training. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services and implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. (PRC/92/001).

Indonesia — This project is an extension of an earlier effort to raise the income of marginal farmers and the poor in rural communities. Begun in 1988, the project has already become operational in 2,000 villages. Training has been provided, credit schemes established and village cooperatives strengthened. Extension of the project will ensure that the successful results are sustained at the institutional and village levels. In addition, it will help assure that the project methods are used in other areas of the country.

UNDP contribution: $1,114,105. Third-party cost sharing: $1,936,910. Government cost sharing: $1,184,950. Funds will provide experts, training and equipment. Government executed and implemented by the Agency for Agricultural Education and Training of the Ministry of Agriculture. (INS/88/034)

Pakistan — The project will improve primary education in Pakistan by assisting two NGOs, each of which will set up a primary school teacher training institute. Support and technical assistance will be used to establish these new institutions, design and implement a teacher training programme, and organize a post-graduate diploma course in education.

UNDP contribution: $2,884,100. Funds will provide audio-visual equipment, computers, education experts and fellowships. Executed by the Ministry of Education and implemented by the

Aga Khan Foundation and the Industrial Technical and Educational Institution. (PAK/91/016)

Saudi Arabia — Important development objectives of the government include speeding up structural changes and diversifying the economy by expanding non-oil producing sectors. UNDP will provide technical support to the Ministry of Planning for formulating economic strategies and policies, and monitoring mechanisms on the performance of the economy. UNDP will also support the Ministry of Planning in improving the skills of its national professional staff in the fields of economic and social planning.

UNDP contribution: $2,774,097. Funds will provide economists in macro-economics, agriculture and industry, and experts in agriculture, investment, international trade, education, health and monetary and financial policies. Executed by the UN Department of Economic and Social Development and implemented by the Ministry of Planning. (SAU/92/002)

Thailand — UNDP will help improve basic education in rural provinces through teacher training, more community-responsive curricula and strengthened local educational administration. The organization and management of vocational training will also be enhanced through management reforms and the formulation of new occupational training programmes. Twelve rural provinces have been identified as pilot areas for the basic education effort, and five provinces have been chosen to test approaches for improving vocational training methods. The strategies that prove successful will be replicated in other provinces.

UNDP contribution: $6 million. UNDP will support the costs of advisory and consulting services in education planning and management, curriculum development, and training. Government executed and implemented by the Policy and Planning Division of the Ministry of Education. (THA/92/002)

Regional projects:

RLA/92/031 — Civil aviation authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean requested support for a regional initiative for inter-country cooperation and exchange of information and technologies. In response, UNDP will contribute to a safe and efficient air transport system in the region by introducing standard civil aviation management and planning procedures. A regional centre will be established to provide participating countries with information on airport operations and maintenance.

UNDP contribution: $240,000. Government cost-sharing: $1,200,000. Funds will provide national experts in civil aviation planning, air transport economics, and airport maintenance. Executed by the International Civil Aviation Organization and implemented by the National Civil Aviation Authorities of participating countries.

Global projects:

GLO/91/G33 — This project is intended to improve the management of oceans and the sustainable productivity of the marine environment. Through support from the Global Environment Facility, the International Ocean Institute, based in Malta, will be able to revise basic courses, develop new ones and coordinate inter-regional oceanic research. These improvements will be carried out through the establishment of new operational centres in Fiji, India, Colombia, and Senegal, which will serve as links to the International Ocean Institute. Each centre will build regional capabilities in ocean management and long-term conservation.

Global Environment Facility funds: $2,600,000. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services and implemented by the International Ocean Institute in Malta.

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Human Development

update

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Protecting indigenous populations in Bolivia

UNDP will support a $51 million, multi-donor programme advancing sustainable development and the cultural and physical preservation of indigenous populations in the Oriente, Chaco and Amazon regions of Bolivia. The programme was announced at the 10 December launch of the 1993 International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

There are six main pillars of the comprehensive programme, which is geared toward creating a better quality of life for the 190,000 indigenous peoples, from 29 different ethnic backgrounds, who live in the lowlands of Bolivia.

First, the territories of the various peoples will be identified, maps will be designed and laws will be devised to ensure the collective community rights to each territory. Second, an educational system, based on linguistic and cultural diversity, will be developed for each ethnic community. Third, water pumps, latrines, emergency medical supplies, and electricity will be provided. Activities will be developed to combine indigenous with modern medical practices. Fourth, projects will be devised for the rational and sustained management of the tropical forests. Environmental strategies will be based on conservation methods of the indigenous groups. Fifth, a legal and political framework will be designed to ensure participation of indigenous people in national development planning and decision-making processes. Sixth, economic activities, such as the production and marketing of crafts and agricultural products, will be supported and enhanced.

This ambitious programme is conceived as a multi-donor undertaking, with total financial assistance estimated at nearly $51 million. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has already earmarked $7 million, and Bolivia's National Environment Fund and the National Social Investment Fund have allocated $2.3 million.

UNDP's priority role was to formulate the complex programme, and now it is to support the government in the management and monitoring of the whole programme and in mobilizing the necessary financial resources. In addition, UNDP will establish a complete baseline data system on the condition of indigenous people in Bolivia, including census information of the lesser known groups, so that programme impact can be measured. The UNDP contribution will be $600,000.

Preventing and managing marine pollution in the East Asian Seas

An initial $316,000 from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will finance the preliminary stages of a programme to prevent, control and manage marine pollution in the East Asian Seas. Coastal and land-based pollution have severely affected the marine environmental quality in the region, which comprises Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

This programme will encourage countries to develop regional, cooperative policies and programmes to manage the environment. Technical skills for preventing and controlling pollution will be upgraded. In addition, appropriate financial arrangements will be established for long-term national and regional marine environmental efforts.

Key considerations in implementing this new pollution control programme will be the diversity of marine problems, the wide range of ecological conditions, and the divergent political views within the region.

The GEF, managed by UNDP, the UN Environment Programme and the World Bank, supports activities in developing countries which help solve global environmental problems.

In this Issue:

Projects approved: **Water and sanitation programme for Bolivia • Training for disaster preparedness in China • Credit for small businesses in Madagascar • Community development in Pakistan • Flood rehabilitation for Paraguay • Poverty alleviation efforts in Sri Lanka • Sudan brings solar technology to rural communities • Saving Uruguay's wetlands • Urban management for Asia and the Pacific**

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Coordinating humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka

A short-term UNDP-financed humanitarian assistance advisor will work with the UNDP office in Colombo, Sri Lanka to provide management support and technical assistance to the country's emergency reconstruction and rehabilitation programme. More than 1.5 million people have been adversely affected by internal conflict in Sri Lanka since the early 1980s.

Approximately 600,000 people have left their homes to find shelter in refugee camps or with relatives. With support from UN agencies, the government has been providing basic food rations, modest shelter, and health and educational services to these internally displaced persons.

Many practical problems remain, however, in matching delivery of assistance with humanitarian needs. Ground operations vary substantially from district to district. The UNDP advisor will, therefore, monitor the provision of humanitarian assistance, identify gaps and operational problems, liaise with the government, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, and provide information to appropriate donors.

UNDP receives Earth Prize

The United Nations Development Programme, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) were recipients of the 1992 Earth Prize, presented at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on 8 December. The annual award was established last year to pay tribute to leadership and excellence in service to the earth, humanity and the environment.

William H. Draper III accepted the award for UNDP. Maurice Strong, former UNCED Secretary-General received the prize on behalf of the environment conference. As Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Mostafa Tolba accepted the award for his agency.

In 1895, Dr. Alfred Nobel founded the Nobel Prizes "to bring betterment to humanity." Today, the Nobel Prizes are the world's measure of the highest standard of achievement in a variety of fields. Recognizing the need to apply such a standard to similar achievements in the environmental and humanitarian sphere, Claes Nobel, in the tradition of his family, established the Earth Prizes.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Bolivia — The government has established a water and sanitation programme to upgrade services, and improve the quantity and quality of drinkable water for three million people in both urban and rural areas. UNDP will help strengthen the management capabilities of the Ministry of Urban Affairs to carry out the programme.

UNDP contribution: $550,000. Funds will be used for experts and equipment. Executed and implemented by the Ministry of Urban Affairs. (BOL/92/101)

China — The Fujian and Jiangxi provinces were struck by flash floods and landslides in July. Damage to schools, businesses and farmland was extensive. UNDP will assist in rehabilitating the two most severely affected counties of the two provinces. Credit schemes will be established for farmers who lost their resource base. In addition, the most severely damaged schools and clinics will be reconstructed. Training in disaster preparedness and mitigation will be provided to relevant government agencies.

UNDP contribution: $500,000. Funds will provide for international and national experts, and training in economic recovery. Building material for the reconstruction of schools and clinics will be supplied. Executed by the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchange. Implemented by the Provincial Governments of Fujian and Jiangxi. (CPR/91/713)

Madagascar — UNDP, the UN Capital Development Fund and the Government will work together to promote the private sector by providing small enterprises with access to commercial credit from local banks. A credit guarantee fund will be created, amounting to $1.3 million. This fund will encourage banks to assume part of the risks of extending credit when borrowers default on loans. In addition, a direct credit facility will be set up, amounting to $3 million. Loans under this plan will be subject to normal commercial credit terms.

UNDP contribution: $660,000. UNCDF contribution: $4,804,000. UNDP funds will provide technical, administrative and logistical support. UNCDF funds will finance the establishment of the loan guarantee fund and the direct credit line. An audit subcontract will also be provided. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services and implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Economy. (MAG/92/C01)

Pakistan — This project will improve the living standards of the poorer, disadvantaged populations in the Neelum and Jhelum river valleys of the province of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. UNDP will help build the capacity of the provincial government to deliver needed supplies and extension services. It will also identify and promote a number of community development projects such as fruit tree planting, seed production, fodder production and soil conserva-

tion. Training will be provided to ensure continued development activities.

UNDP contribution: $2,990,630. Funds will provide a national rural economist, a women's extension service specialist, and five subcontracts with local NGOs for surveys, studies and training. Executed by the UNDP's Office of Project Services and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. (PAK/92/005)

Paraguay — Due to severe floods in April, communications, schools, hospitals and other services were disrupted in Paraguay. The agriculture and livestock sectors suffered great losses. UNDP assistance will help to rehabilitate the flooded region and improve living conditions in the affected area. Potable water, medicine and vaccines will be provided, and 200 kilometres of flood damaged roads will be repaired. UNDP will assist in setting up, coordinating and supervising the emergency rehabilitation effort.

UNDP contribution: $6,285,000. Funds will be used for equipment, subcontracts for civil works, and consultancies for technical supervision and administration. Government executed and implemented by the National Office for Management and Administration of Projects in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. (PAR/92/012)

Sri Lanka — UNDP will help alleviate poverty and improve food security and nutrition by creating income generating opportunities in the Uva Province. Community groups and the staff of relevant agencies will be trained in various aspects of rural development, land management and handicraft development. The planning, managerial and technical capabilities of the Uva Provincial Council will be strengthened. In addition, agricultural institutions will be enhanced to provide better extension services, research, and conservation and technical training.

UNDP contribution: $1,406,400. Funds will provide training, international specialists in land use and conservation, a regional planner, a procurement consultant, and a research agronomist. Executed by the Regional Development Division of the Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation. Implemented by UNDP's Office for Project Services. (SRL/91/003)

Sudan — Unreliable energy supply to rural areas has hindered development of small enterprises and the provision of social services. This project will bring solar technology to 50 rural communities in Kordofan. The solar technology will be used for refrigeration, pumping water, grinding and lighting.

Assistance will enable the Energy Research Institute to become an information resource centre on renewable energy. Policies will be developed and credit schemes devised to encourage the local manufacture and assembly of photovoltaic components.

UNDP contribution: $1,000,000. UN Fund for Science and Technology for Development contribution: $800,000. Funds will be used for experts, training, equipment, and assessments of photovoltaic uses in local communities. Government executed and implemented by the Energy Research Institute. (SUD/90/010)

Uruguay — The eastern wetlands of Uruguay are part of the richest wetlands complex in subtropical South America. Threats to the area's biodiversity are increasing. UNDP will provide support to strengthen existing local participation in the design and implementation of a regional wetlands management programme, and to help disseminate scientific data on the area's natural resources. Proposals for policies, laws and regulations will be devised to ensure that biodiversity conservation in the wetlands complies with international conventions. Plans will be developed for the sustainable management of the area's soil, water and natural resources.

UNDP contribution: $2,900,000. Funds will be used for consultants in such areas as biodiversity management, water resources management, zoology, marine biology, botany, pollution control, hydrology, agronomy, social work, and environmental legislation. Lab equipment and vehicles will also be provided. Executed and implemented by a committee composed of the Ministry of Housing, Territorial Regulation, and the Environment; the Municipality of Rocha; and the University of the Republic. (URU/92/G31)

Regional projects

RAS/92/011 — Urban Management for Asia and the Pacific— This regional programme in ten Asian countries will help increase the capabilities of administrative offices to tackle the problems of rapid urbanization. Sustainable urban environmental policies will be promoted. Decentralization of power and resources will help ensure that urban services will be directed to economically vulnerable groups such as women, the unemployed and refugees.

UNDP contribution: $6.2 million. Funds will be used for training, equipment, and sub-contracts. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services, in association with the UN Centre for Human Settlements, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the World Bank. Implemented by relevant ministries dealing with urban development.

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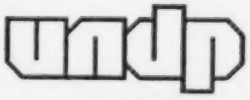

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